

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 04530 051235Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 DODE-00 L-03 SSO-00 /012 W

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O 051203Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6640

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 4530

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMAR, MMOL, CPAS, OGEN, US, LI

SUBJECT: PASSPORT FOR BEECH AIRCRAFT REP TO SERVICE DAO PLANE

REF: STATE 183707

1. I APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS KNOTTY PROBLEM AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO WORK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL IF THAT IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE. HOWEVER, I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT APPROACH WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT MR. WEBSTER OF BEECH, AND WE, WILL FACE IF HIS STATUS AS A MEMBER OF MY STAFF IS NOT CRYSTAL CLEAR.

2. IF WE UNDERSTAND YOUR MESSAGE CORRECTLY, WEBSTER HAS A TOURIST VISA AND YOU ARE SUGGESTING WE ASSIST HIM IN OBTAINING A RESIDENT VISA. FYI, A RESIDENT VISA IS THE LIBERIAN EQUIVALENT OF A U.S. IMMIGRANT VISA. IT IS GOOD FOR ONLY ONE ENTRY INTO LIBERIA WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE AND COSTS \$20. SINCE THE DAO AIRCRAFT WILL BE FLYING ON REGIONAL MISSIONS, WEBSTER'S DUTIES WILL REQUIRE THAT HE TRAVEL TO OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES (WHERE STATUS AND VISA PROBLEMS WILL ALSO ARISE). A SINGLE-ENTRY VISA WILL CAUSE HIM AND US PROBLEMS. AFTER A PERSON ON A NON-OFFICIAL RESIDENT VISA ARRIVES IN LIBERIA, HE MUST OBTAIN A LIBERIAN RESIDENCE PERMIT AND A WORK PERMIT. A RESIDENCE PERMIT PRESENTLY COSTS \$40 AND THE CHARGE FOR A WORK PERMIT OF \$100. RESIDENTS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO POST A \$3,000 BOND AND OBTAIN POLICE CLEARANCES FROM EVERY PLACE THEY HAVE RESIDED SINCE THE AGE OF 16, AS WELL AS OTHER EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION. IN ADDITION, BY REQUESTING A RESIDENCE PERMIT,

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PAGE 02 MONROV 04530 051235Z

WE IN EFFECT SIGNAL THE GOL THAT THIS MAN HAS A STATUS OTHER

THAN THAT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF MY STAFF.

3. I SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEND A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON REQUESTING A ONE-YEAR, MULTIPLE ENTRY OFFICIAL RPT OFFICIAL VISA FOR WEBSTER. WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FOR HIM A RESIDENCE PERMIT THROUGH OUR NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

4. SINCE THE TIME IS EXTREMELY SHORT ON THIS, I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF THIS PROCEDURE IS ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT IF WE FOLLOW PROCEDURE SUGGESTED REFTEL WE MAY SET A PRECEDENT THAT WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE LIVING WITH IN THE FUTURE (NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THE PAYMENT OF FEES FOR DOCUMENTATION OF QTE A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY UNQTE).
MANFULL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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